

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

1           A method for requesting and processing a plurality of objects includes requesting a  
2   plurality of objects from a server, receiving a response message from the server, the  
3   response message containing the plurality of objects packed into the response message, and  
4   automatically unpacking the plurality of objects contained in the response message. The  
5   server includes an object packing module for packing requested objects into the response  
6   message. The client includes a plugin program that interacts with a network browser, in  
7   which the plugin program includes an unpacking module for unpacking the packed response  
8   message from the server. By delivering the plurality of requested objects in a single  
9   response message the objects are delivered over a single communication session thereby  
10   avoiding setting up and tearing down a plurality of communication sessions and reducing  
11   overhead processing. The objects can be thumbnail images forming the results of a search  
12   query.